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DEFENSE INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE
1900 HALF STREET, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20324

81-683

7 JUL 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, SECURITY PLANS AND PROGRAMS, ODUSD(P)

SUBJECT: Lansdale, Edward G., Major General, USAF (Ret)/Unauthorized Disclosure

The attached memorandum sets forth a summary of results of our inquiries to date.

John L. Sproul
JOHN L. SPROUL
Acting Director

Attachment

Cy to: General Counsel

Classified by DIR SIU, DIS
Declassify on 8 July 2001

Copy 1 of 3 copies

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Interim Report of Defense Investigative Service (DIS) Inquiries
Regarding: Lansdale, Edward G., Major General, USAF (Ret)/
Unauthorized Disclosure (U)

BACKGROUND

(U) Prior to initiation of the investigation, Defense Industrial Security Personnel reported they had received the following background information from the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. Major General Edward G. Lansdale, USAF (Ret) donated his personal papers to the institute. The papers were received in 55 boxes, about one-half of which contained Secret and Confidential DoD documents that Lansdale apparently removed to his private residence after he left his position in the Special Projects Office of the OSD in 1969. The bulk of the material appeared to have originated in OSD. The boxes were transmitted to California via an uncleared commercial trucking firm.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY

(U) The Institution is cleared by DoD for storage of and access to material classified up to Top Secret.

(U) The Office of General Officer Matters, USAF, Pentagon, advised that from October 1958 to May 1963, Lansdale served as the Assistant to the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations) and from June 1963 to October 1963, he served as the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Central Control Group). They reported that he retired from active duty in October 1973 vice 1969 as earlier reported by the Hoover Institution. 6

(C) At the request of the Special Investigations Unit, an inventory of Lansdale's material at the Institution was conducted by Defense Industrial Security Personnel. The results were reported by letter dated June 4, 1981 (Attachment 1). Following is a breakdown of the classified documents which were identified:

- a. TOP SECRET - 16
- b. SECRET - 1053
- c. CONFIDENTIAL - 1071
- d. RESTRICTED - 13
- e. FOUO - 2
- f. EYES ONLY - 8
- *g. OTHERS - 20
- h. MAT (Vietnam Secret) - 5
- i. KIN (Vietnam CONFIDENTIAL) - 8

*Includes highly sensitive material (names, incidents) not classified.

(C) A review of the list of documents prepared during the inventory (Attachment 2) and telephonic discussions conducted with the individuals who performed the inventory disclosed that Lansdale's material consisted of 57 boxes vice 55 indicated by the Institution. Many of the documents and memorandum are on letterhead.

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They may have been classified by Lansdale while he was stationed in the Far East and Vietnam. Approximately 20 to 40 documents contain what appear to be very sensitive information relating to DoD, CIA and the State Department. As an example, the following is provided:

25X1

3. A memorandum which speaks rather unfavorably about Mr. Habib of the State Department.

(U) Defense Industrial Security Personnel advised that due to the scope and nature of the documents they would be unable to provide a damage assessment or determine if Lansdale's documents could be declassified or downgraded. They suggested that the Office of the Secretary of Defense would have responsibility for taking such actions.

(U) In an attempt to determine who could provide a review of Lansdale's documents for declassification or downgrading and a damage assessment, the Directorate for Freedom of Information and Security Review, Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) was contacted. That office advised that all documents should be sent to the Director for Information Security, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, so that his office could review and disseminate to the appropriate offices for declassification or downgrading.

(U) The Office for Information Security agreed that they should handle review of the documents, if they could be obtained from the Institution. They felt that DoD should regain possession of the documents as soon as possible, but suggested that a legal opinion be obtained from the Office of General Counsel, OSD, prior to contacting the Institution.

(U) The Office of General Counsel, OSD, was contacted in this regard and they advised that classified documents and those containing proprietary information did not belong to Lansdale and should not have been removed from DoD control. They further advised that these documents are the property of DoD and DoD has every right to regain possession of them and to determine the final disposition of same.

(U) This matter was coordinated with the Office of the Director for Security Plans and Programs who requested that the Institution be contacted to determine their position regarding return of the documents to DoD control.

(U) On June 29, 1981, Mr. Charles G. Palm, Deputy Archivist, Hoover Institution was contacted at his hotel in Washington, DC. Palm advised as follows:

(U) Lansdale maintained his personal papers in the basement of his home until about 1½ years ago when a fire nearly destroyed his home. At that time he donated all of his papers to the Institution. They were accepted for the Institution by the Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, PA, placed in sealed boxes and shipped via Allied Van Lines to the Institution. The trucking company is not cleared for access to classified information. The boxes arrived with the seals intact.

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(U) The Institution views Lansdale's papers as their property. (The paper and ink belong to the Institution. The information on the paper may belong to DoD.) The Institution's normal practice is to provide copies of the documents and retain the originals and they will do this for DoD if DoD will provide one individual to assist with the copy work. If DoD insists on obtaining the originals the matter will have to be discussed with higher officials at the Institution.

(U) The Institution will withhold Lansdale's papers from use until this matter can be resolved. Palm is of the opinion that some of the documents contain very sensitive information that should not be released anywhere. The Institution currently enjoys an amicable relationship with DoD and would like it to continue.

(U) As an aside, Mr. Palm stated that Lansdale has commissioned a young scholar named Gary May, University of Delaware, to write his autobiography. Lansdale has provided him with a great many copies of his papers. Palm did not know whether Lansdale had provided May with any of the classified or sensitive material. Palm also advised that he has informed Lansdale of this investigation.

RECOMMENDATION

(U) It is recommended that this information and Attachment 2 of this memorandum be provided to appropriate authorities at CIA and the State Department so that each may evaluate the material and take whatever action they deem necessary, in coordination with DoD.

Attachments

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Discovery of Collection of Government Documents in Private Hands

FROM: Thomas H. White
Director of Information Services
1206 Ames

EXTENSION

NO.

OIS 81-683/1

DATE

17 July 1981

25X1

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. William Donnelly
C/IMS/DDO
1D4124, Hqs.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Bill:

You may be interested in the attached which reports on the discovery of a large pile of classified documents donated to the Hoover Institute by Ret. Major General Edward G. Lansdale. On page 2 you will note that one of the documents purports to be

25X1

There was a meeting at the Pentagon on 16 July to discuss what to do about the collection of papers. [] (OS),

[] (OGC), and [] (CRD/OIS) attended. According to the report I got, it was decided that DOD would attempt to get the papers back through niceness and if they couldn't they would get heavy, especially with respect to the contract Hoover has with DOD. [] may be able to give you a little better run-down. I will stay in touch with the matter as we go along also.

25X1

25X1 25X1

25X1

9. DIS:THWhite [] (17 July 1981)

Distribution:

10. Orig PRS - Adse w/att

1 - CRD w/att

1 - OIS Subject w/att

11. 1 - OIS Chrono

12.

13.

14.

15.

Att

/s/ Tom

Thomas H. White

UNCLASSIFIED when
separated from attachment

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